

Postal Service should issue a stamp honoring the holiday "Diwali", also known as the Festival of Lights.

The Citizens Stamp Advisory Commission under the U.S. Postal Service currently issues many stamps with holiday themes, including Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and most recently, Eid. The Commission has not issued a stamp honoring Diwali, and I am hopeful that we will soon have a U.S. postal stamp commemorating this beautiful festival celebrated in India and throughout the world.

Diwali is one of the most important and colorful of the Indian festivals and is celebrated enthusiastically by Indians all over the world. It marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year and is seen as a brand new beginning for all.

Traditionally Diwali is celebrated for five days, each day having its own significance, rituals and myths. Light, in the form of candles and lamps, is a crucial part of Diwali, representing the triumph of light over darkness, goodness over evil and hope for the future.

During Diwali people light small oil lamps and place them around the home to pray for health, wealth, knowledge, peace and fame. Fireworks are an exciting part of Diwali and the celebration of the festival is also customarily accompanied by exchanging sweets.

The rich culture associated with the Diwali tradition includes observation of this holiday by Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Muslims and Buddhists. Diwali is a time for communal gatherings and spiritual enlightenment. People from across the world make an effort to visit their family, friends and neighbors on this wonderful holiday.

The spirit of Diwali has survived political, economic and social vicissitudes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the triumph of light, goodness, knowledge and truth. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, Diwali is an exceptionally rich and culturally significant holiday that expresses hope and for these reasons, this holiday should be commemorated as a United States postal stamp.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that Diwali is truly a marvelous holiday that deserves recognition. As the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee continues it plans for issuing new stamps, I hope that it will consider issuing a Diwali stamp to honor this culturally significant holiday celebrated in the United States and abroad.

COMMEMORATIVE JOINT MEETING
OF CONGRESS, FEDERAL HALL,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, today we gather here in Federal Hall to honor and recognized the courage and determination of the survivors of the horrible terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. It is fitting that we do so.

It was here in Federal Hall that the new Congress of the United States first met in 1789 to govern our new Nation. It was here in New York that our founding fathers passed the laws that are the foundation for our democratic political system. From this solid foundation, our Nation has grown and prospered. Our people have excelled in science, in the hu-

manities, in art and culture. We have grown to be a great Nation, home to a great people, with tremendous hopes and incredible dreams for the future. And it all began right here in Federal Hall.

One year ago, terrorists attacked America. Their targets were not simply the buildings they destroyed and the people they murdered. They were attacking the very ideals that define what it means to be an American. They wanted to drive us apart and make us afraid.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that they failed.

Faced with tragedy and destruction, the people of the United States, and particularly the people of New York, came together as one community. We gathered the emotional resources to survive and heal, and we pulled together the financial resources to rebuild. This has not been easy. It takes incredible courage to move forward after a tragedy like 9-11. But we did find that courage within ourselves.

That is why it is so fitting that we are here in New York today. One year after September 11, we are rededicating our Nation. The terrorists have not won. They have lost. Our Nation is stronger and more united. Our freedom, our courage, our determination, our unity, our diversity, our charity and our democracy are our strengths. New York has exhibited all of these strengths in abundance in the last year. And they are everywhere in America.

WELCOMING HER MAJESTY QUEEN
SIRIKIT OF THAILAND TO THE
UNITED STATES

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand on her visit to the United States from October 4 to 16, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues in the House are undoubtedly aware, Thailand and the United States have been friends for almost two centuries. Our formal relations extend back 169 years to the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between our two nations on March 20, 1833, during the Presidency of Andrew Jackson, the seventh United States President, and the reign of His Majesty King Phra Nang Klao, or King Rama III, of the Chakri Dynasty. This Treaty was the first such treaty that the United States had concluded with any Asian country and it contains a pledge to establish "a perpetual peace" between our two countries. I believe that this pledge has been honored during the long and happy relationship between Thailand and the United States as we have so often fought side by side and have made countless sacrifices for one another in defense of our common values. I'd also like to remind my colleagues that His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej Maharaj, Thailand's present King, was born some 75 years ago in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where His father, His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol, was studying at the Harvard Medical School.

In addition to highlighting the strong ties between the United States and Thailand, the Queen's visit to the United States will allow

also us to become more aware of the many charitable organizations which She has founded and has worked so hard to make successful. One of the more important of these is the Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques, or SUPPORT. SUPPORT was founded in 1976 under Her Majesty's royal patronage and chairmanship and provides outlets for local wares and handicrafts from all regions of the Kingdom. The promotion and sales of these items provide extra income-generating occupations for farmers who find it difficult to subsist on farm incomes alone. By supporting these cottage and indigenous industries, the Foundation also help keep alive dying arts, such as traditional clay "chao wang" dolls and tie-dye "mud-mee" silk. Many of my colleagues and I are looking forward to seeing the display of products and activities of the SUPPORT Foundation at the gala dinner which will be presided over by Her Majesty at the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress on October 9.

One of the highlights of the Queen's visit will be to preside over the premier of the Thai film *The Legend of Suriyothai* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts here in Washington. This critically acclaimed film by one of Thailand's most experienced filmmakers, Prince Chatrichalem Yukol, is an epic historical motion picture that portrays one of Thailand's foremost heroines, Queen Phra Suriyothai. She fought and died to protect Her husband and king's life and Her actions united Her people to win a war against an invading army in the 14th century.

During Her visit to the United States, Queen Sirikit will also travel to Houston, Texas, where She will be presented with The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Award for Humanitarian Service. This award will recognize Her Majesty's lifelong dedication to improving the health and well being of the people of Thailand and for international leadership in health and the environment. Former President and Mrs. George Bush will also host tea for Her Majesty during Her stay in Houston.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance of our relationship with Thailand and in recognition all Queen Sirikit has done to improve the lives of Her subjects and people throughout the world, I rise today to welcome Her Majesty to the United States and to urge my colleagues in joining me in honoring one of the world's most respected humanitarians.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL G.
ANZILOTTI FOR HIS YEARS OF
DEDICATION TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Michael G. Anzilotti for receiving the 2002 Gala & Community Leadership Award.

Mr. Anzilotti deserves praise for his long-time commitment, and the ongoing involvement of his firm, to community service. He graduated in 1971 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in marketing. In addition he has received a Masters's Degree in Business